

because I was unavoidably detained while traveling in the district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 593 (motion to approve the Journal) and "aye" on rollcall votes 594 (a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 607) and 595 (a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2245).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on congressionally-directed funding, I am submitting the following information regarding funding included in H.R. 3170—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010

Requesting Member: Congressman HAROLD ROGERS

Bill Number: H.R. 3170

Account: ONDCP

Legal Name of Recipient: National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws

Address of Recipient: 1414 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Description of Request: As also requested by the President, provides \$1,250,000 in directed funding to assist states with their efforts to address diversion of, abuse of, misuse of, and addiction to prescription drugs. The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) is a non-profit organization that serves as a resource for governors, state legislators, drug and alcohol professionals, community leaders, and others striving for comprehensive and effective state drug and alcohol laws, policies and programs. NAMSDL's national network of drug and alcohol experts researches and analyzes model drug and alcohol laws, and facilitates working relationships among state and community leaders and drug and alcohol professionals. The proliferation of addictive pain-relief prescription drugs in Kentucky and across the country necessitates continued funding of NAMSDL programs.

PREVENTIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, as we continue to craft a meaningful, necessary reform of our health care system, we must continue to embrace prevention, the provision of whole-body care, and the reversal of the current "sick-care" system. With this in mind, I respectfully ask you to ensure that screening for mental health and substance abuse is included as one of the preventative services proposed by the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

The pervasiveness of mental illness and substance abuse in our society continues to be disconcerting. In 2007, over 20 million indi-

viduals were diagnosed with substance dependence or abuse. However, less than 10 percent received treatment for their disorders. By some estimates, the societal health and economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse are estimated at \$366 billion per year. Conversely, screening has an estimated net savings of \$294 per person offered screening.

Extensive data documents that drug and alcohol addiction treatment is as effective as treatment for other chronic medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Substance addiction, like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, is a preventable and treatable chronic disease. Likewise, mental illnesses are among the most expensive and disabling chronic diseases. Severe mental illnesses are estimated to cost the U.S. \$193 billion in lost wages in 2002. The World Health Organization has pronounced mental health disorders to be the leading cause of disability in the U.S. based on burden of disease. Moreover, mental illnesses often accompany and greatly increase the cost of treating other chronic conditions. Tragically, individuals with serious mental illness have a life expectancy of 25 years less than general population.

Currently, mental health and substance abuse screening tools, such as Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT or SBI), are being used effectively in many academic centers, hospitals, trauma centers and community health settings across the country. A cost assessment conducted of SBIRT in Washington State demonstrated a cost savings for the State of \$2 million in Medicaid costs for just 1,000 patients. SBIRT is already effectively being used by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the Center for Medicare Services has also allocated approximately \$300 million for states specifically for reimbursement of SBIRT. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that this life-saving preventative strategy is included in the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

INTRODUCING AG TRUCK WEIGHTS LEGISLATION

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce, on behalf of myself and my colleague ADRIAN SMITH of Nebraska, the House companion bill to S. 639—bill to help farmers and ranchers transport their commodities more easily.

Being a member of both the Agriculture and the Transportation Committees, I understand how critical it is that both sectors be able to work together to facilitate the movement of commodities. Representing a largely agricultural district, I know the struggles farmers go through to transport their crops, especially in this time of ever fluctuating gas prices. We need to be doing what we can to relieve farmers of unnecessary transportation rules and regulations when they follow safe and responsible procedures.

When a farmer drives goods of over 10,001 pounds across state lines, they become subject to the rules and regulations of commercial motor vehicles. Within their own State, the

farmer is not violating any laws; however, once they become an "interstate carrier" the farmer is then responsible for all of the requirements of an operator of a commercial motor vehicle. These requirements include having a commercial driver's license, Department of Transportation certification on the vehicle, being subject to drug and alcohol testing in addition to having a medical examination certificate, and recording hours of service. For those farmers who are occasionally transporting their goods across state lines and are not driving trucks for a living, these requirements are an unnecessary burden. These costly regulations are taking an unfair toll on farmers and this legislation will correct that. This legislation would exempt farmers from the 10,001 pound definition of a Commercial Motor Vehicle when traveling between States and will reduce undue burdens on farmers.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3170) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Chair, last week the House voted on legislation, H.R. 3170, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2010, which included an important provision to reinstate the economic rights of auto dealers whose franchise agreements were recently terminated by GM and Chrysler. Along with 242 of my colleagues, I am a cosponsor of two pieces of legislation that are similar to that provision: H.R. 2743 and H.R. 2796, both known as the Automobile Dealer Economic Rights Restoration Act of 2009.

Unfortunately, I was unable to support the overall appropriations bill, H.R. 3170, due to concerns entirely unrelated to the auto dealer provision. For instance, I am concerned that the bill allows for publicly funded abortions in Washington, DC. For years, there has been a prohibition on taxpayer-funded abortions in the District of Columbia—a ban which restricted the use of both federal and local tax dollars for abortions. However, this bill makes taxpayer funded abortion quite possible.

The legislation also eliminates the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, a school voucher program which has successfully improved the DC public school system since its inception. Under the bill, no new students will receive funding for this program, which aids low-income children by giving them scholarships of up to \$7,500 to attend nonpublic schools in Washington, DC. The bill also removes the current ban on legalizing medical marijuana in DC.

I strongly believe that the franchise rights of hundreds of dealers across the nation were wrongfully violated throughout the course of the automakers' restructuring, and I believe that the heavy hand of government which